

OYE el Cambio

Hear the Change...

Going Beyond the Becas

The mantra in OYE is that we are about much more than just becas (scholarships). There is no denying that the economic aid helps OYE's scholars attend school, but the real prize that OYE offers its beneficiaries is the opportunity to grow and learn. OYE picks up where the formal education system falls short, and this means reinforcing and offering tutoring in basic academic materials; capacity building classes to address self-esteem, sexuality, gender roles and bias, reproductive health, mental health, and leadership; and creating unique spaces for youth to express themselves and grow through hands-on experience.

This year OYE is opening its doors to the greater El Progreso community. Opening our doors means that OYE is reaching out to all of El Progreso's at-risk youth population. You no longer need a scholarship from the institution to participate in art classes, learn how to edit and broadcast your own radio show, or write articles and publish articles in a youth operated magazine. Scholarship students are inviting their friends and family to join them at OYE and share in the life-changing and empowering programs they have developed.

OYE is excited to see our scholars grow as leaders and our programs fill with new participants. The participation of students not receiving scholarships is a testament to the importance and strength of our other programs. Perhaps one day we will go beyond becas entirely and dedicate all our resources to teaching, empowering, and preparing thousands of at-risk youth to be young professionals and leaders.

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Did you know?

The average OYE scholarship family supports a family of 5 with a monthly income between just \$200 or \$300!
That's about \$2 a day.

Capacity Classes – Dunia Perdomo Revamps Curriculum

How do you offer capacity building classes to 70 high school and university aged youth with varying ages, levels of education, and involvement in OYE?

Dunia Perdomo has the answer. Dunia, once an OYE scholarship student herself, is the current Program Coordinator for OYE Honduras. She is responsible for designing and implementing our famous Capacity Building Classes. This year she was challenged to not only replicate classes but also improve them. Thanks to her experience as an industrial engineer she has achieved just that.

No longer will the same youth repeat the same course on reproductive health. OYE's students have been split into three distinct groups based on age, grade level, and time in OYE. The curriculum that Dunia is developing incorporates the youth in focus groups and creates learning modules that develop and build on each other. Rather than submitting our students to the same workshops year after year, older scholarship students assist in workshops for the younger students, and are challenged with more complex material and themes in their own sessions. Beyond improving the curriculum, Dunia has made an effort to introduce new themes and corresponding experts. She has forged new alliances



with other institutions. For example, the Rotary Club of El Progreso contributed with a workshop on leadership and the Association of Honduran Factories is certifying our 70 scholarship students and local youth in first-aid.

At OYE we believe that knowledge is power, we are giving local youth access to the best information available so they may grow and develop into strong individuals and leaders of their peers.

Bienvenidos a Maria de Los Angeles Mejia



Maria de Los Angeles Mejia

OYE is proud to present our new director, Maria. Originally from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Maria joined the OYE team in El Progreso the 17 of April. She holds two Masters Degrees in Non-Profit and Business Administration, and has acquired impressive knowledge of NGOs, development, and youth through her studies both abroad and nationally, various volunteer efforts, and professional experience.

OYE looks forward to the new energy and drive that a qualified director like Maria promises. Under her direction this will be a year of growth and innovation.

"I came to OYE because of its philosophy...I look forward to ..." -Maria

Three and a Half Months

What happens in three and a half months? Can you learn a new language, make new friends, or even become part of a new family?

OYE's internship program with Mary Baldwin has answered many of these questions over the last four years. The program hosts college Juniors and Seniors studying social work. Working in a diverse environment and immersing themselves in a foreign culture, the girls have met and overcome many obstacles both professionally and personally.

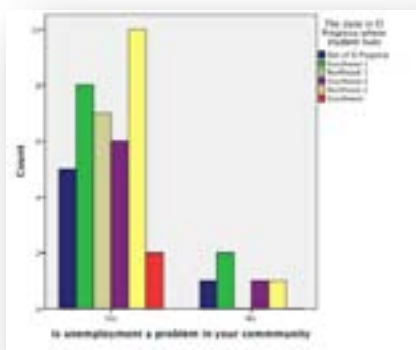
This years MBC intern, Christina Rameriz, made a profound impact on many. Christina proved that she is a hard working and determined individual. In her life very little has been handed to her, and she did many OYE scholars a service by simply being herself and dispelling popular misnomers about what it means to come from the United States.

Christina, whose grandparents are from Puerto Rico, saw an internship at OYE as an opportunity to get in touch with her Latin roots. That does not mean it was easy. When Christina stepped off the plane in January she could barely understand "Bienvenidos." A lot of hard work, practice, a pencil, and a notebook later and Christina was in deep conversation with all who would listen.

One of Christina's big goals was to realize a community engagement project. In early March, Christina collaborated with OYE students in the planning process of a mural. She reached out to Gerald, the art coordinator, and grew close to the students while doodling drafts and debating colors.

Selecting the high school Cheves, in the neighborhood where Christina stayed, allowed the intern to include her friends and neighbors in the project, truly giving it special meaning to her.

The mural reflects the hope of and the path toward a brighter future through education.



The collaboration that came together around the mural, OYE scholars, Christina, teachers, administrators, students, and parents, was as powerful as the theme of the mural itself.



Beyond painting and bonding with students, Christina completed another important piece of work for OYE. She used her training as a social worker combined with guidance from OYE staff to design a Needs Assessment for OYE's beneficiaries. The investigation produced important data for the development of OYE's programs and services.

In many respects Christina's Needs Assessment was a reaffirmation of the programs and services that OYE currently offers its beneficiaries, but it drew some interesting conclusions about how OYE's programs are perceived and how they could be improved. These include a statistical understanding of the importance of the economic scholarship and each of the respective social programs.



Christina poses with OYE's art students in front of a completed Mural-Cheves High School, El Progreso, Yoro

OYE is Rockin' the Laser Technology

OYE takes the Revista Jovenes to new levels by introducing in house design and printing capabilities. Under the guidance of graphic designer and board member Edoardo Umanzor, OYE's magazine group has purchased a professional quality Laser printer. This is an important next step in becoming a self-sufficient youth run project. Bringing the in-house capabilities to OYE

reduces the marginal costs of production and symbolically makes the magazine 100% independent and youth owned.

“When the youth write the articles, they can design the page in a form that they see fit. Before Edoardo designed the magazine how he wanted to, but now it is in the total control of OYE youth” – Fabiola Oro

Oscar Osorio and Yorleni Rodriguez have taken on the challenge of designing and printing the magazine. They have benefited from crash courses given by Eduardo and printer technicians. Graphic designer and journalism Professor Oscar Ivan Romero joined OYE to share an eight-hour workshop with the youth on graphic design and print setting. While the first few additions will certainly be a learning process, the learning curve is steep at OYE.



Ambassador Kubiske Visits: OYE Makes National Headlines

Thursday, April 12, the block was shut down and OYE awaited a special guest. At 11:10 am the security detail gave the office one last sweep and Ambassador Lisa Kubiske entered the offices where she was warmly received by staff and students alike. The ambassador, already familiar with OYE and its work, settled into a casual meeting and tour of the offices. She took advantage of the opportunity to

meet and know the youth leaders that make OYE the outstanding institution it is. Her attention and pointed questions encouraged confidence in the youth that got to know her.

She demonstrated particular interest and surprise at the quality of work OYE students are engaged in, especially the art group. The students won the day. They made a great impression on Ambassador Kubiske who promises to stay in touch and keep OYE in her sites. Keep your eyes peeled for the next issue of Revista Jovenes that features an interview with the ambassador.



Scholar Spotlight: Oscar Osorio

Oscar is far from your average nineteen-year old. First of all, he is an OYE scholarship student. Secondly, he is the most out going person you will ever meet. Oscar is a hard worker and natural leader. He is an addict for dancing, and you might find him at any given hour practicing his English belting Beyonce songs.

Growing up in the Carcamo, one of El Progreso's most isolated communities, Oscar was exposed to poverty and hardship at a young age. With support from his family and younger sister he has always dedicated himself to self-improvement and helping his family. OYE has been proud, as has Oscar, to send international volunteers to his house. Last summer he hosted Shawon Jackson, and just recently he invited a group of 10 volunteers to his house for dinner.

Oscar is proud of himself, his family, and where he is from. He embraces the opportunities to share his life with others and has become a staple for staff, students, and volunteers at OYE.

In April Oscar stepped up big. As a member of the magazine program, Oscar volunteered to take charge of the design and printing. He has been teaching himself Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator designing the latest edition of the magazine as he goes.

Join the Race4OYE: Run for a Change!

It started with a race and grew into a movement. Each year the Race4OYE family grows as more runners dedicate their marathons to helping at-risk youth in Honduras. This year the movement is stronger than ever. In 2013 more than 12 runners have braved the cold (April race in Mass) and the heat (half marathon in Nicaragua) for OYE raising over \$6,000 to support Honduran youth.

Racing for OYE is a great way to stay in shape and raise not only funds but awareness for OYE. By racing you can open the doors to new sponsors and help grow the movement that gives at-risk Honduran youth opportunities to grow into future leaders and change makers in one of America's most troubled countries. Your support is essential.

Honduras is all over the international press for its high crime rates, intimidation of journalists, and poverty. What the international press misses is the richness and potential of the country. Among the youth are artists, entrepreneurs, innovators, and peacemakers. It is a shame to live in such a beautiful country and only see negative perceptions perpetuated by the media. Those that run for OYE run for a reason. They are investing in the potential and future of a beautiful country and its youth.

This is an important year for OYE in many ways. First of all we have expanded our number of beneficiaries by nearly 20 scholarship students and opened up our development projects to many more outside youth. This is a substantial and symbolic change. Substantially, we are empowering many more youth both directly and indirectly. We have already reached out to over 100 youth with capacity building classes and skill development. By the end of the year that number will grow to nearly 500, including events like Copa OYE (annual soccer tournament) that directly involve at-risk youth. Symbolically, we are converting OYE into a youth center and hub that welcomes students for a number of services and benefits. We are opening our doors to encourage community creativity and academic support. By the end of the year OYE hopes to become a pillar of support and encouragement for all of El Progreso's youth, not just those



Support the racers online:

[Race4OYE](#)

Or find out how to become a
racer:

[Register Now!](#)

receiving scholarships.

In order to continue supporting and empowering Honduran youth we rely on your support. \$500 is the annual cost of one University Scholarship that includes capacity building classes and extra curricular activities. However, at OYE we are empowering youth leaders and agents of social change and the affects of that \$500 are multiplied. For each youth that participates in OYE between two and three more local at-risk youth are involved directly in our community engagement projects or Radio, Magazine, Art, Sports, and New Media Production, and another five are involved indirectly. Please, make a donation now to support our cause. Remember no amount is to little... Except for zero, zero is too little.

Support at-risk Honduran youth by clicking the OYE logo below!

